



JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 364 Testimony
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Housing
January 29, 2008
411 South
State Capitol

Chairwoman Taylor and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of Senate Bill 364, which will change the definition of "sexual intercourse" when considering the crime of incest.

Although incest is a near-universal taboo, a recent event in Milwaukee County serves as a harsh reminder that the issue continues to impact many citizens in our state. Representative David Cullen, who authored the Assembly version of this bill, is here today and will further explain the significance of this particular case and how it validates the need for statutory reform.

A 2004 report by the Office of Justice Assistance reveals that a victim's family member serves as the assailant in 1,122 or 19% of all sexual assaults, regardless of age.

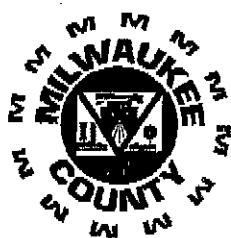
According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, incest can include the following sexual acts: noncontact acts, such as sexual comments, exposure, voyeurism, and showing pornographic materials; sexual contact such as touching and rubbing; digital or object penetration both of the victim and/or of the perpetrator; oral sex of the victim and/or of the perpetrator; and penile penetration, including vaginal, anal, and animals.

Wisconsin's definition of incest does include most of these acts as they relate to children; however, the statutes do not include as broad of a definition for incest between adults. Current law narrowly defines incest as "whoever marries or has nonmarital sexual intercourse with a person he or she knows is a blood relative," with "sexual intercourse" consisting only of vulvar penetration.

This bill will expand the definition of incest by cross referencing other parts of the statutes, which define sexual intercourse as "vulvar penetration, as well as cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse between persons or any other intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or of any object into the genital or anal opening either by the defendant or upon the defendant's instruction."

This legislation is supported by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

As I mentioned, Representative Cullen is also here today to add a few additional comments and then we will welcome any questions. Thank you.



OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Milwaukee County

JOHN T. CHISHOLM • District Attorney

January 29, 2008

Senator Lena Taylor

Chairwoman

Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing
Room 415 South, State Capitol

Re: Senate Bill #364

Senator Taylor:

The Milwaukee District Attorney's Office supports the passage of Senate Bill #364.

I have been authorized by District Attorney John Chisholm to write this letter on behalf of this office.

Thank you,

Paul Tiffin

ADA

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